

MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

—*NEW RIVER*

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH

SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH,

FAYETTE COUNTY, ALA.,

ON OCTOBER 9TH, 10TH AND 11TH, 1884.

—*C. D. D.---

TUSKALOOSA, ALA :
GAZETTE BOOK AND JOB PRINT.
1884.

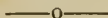
MINUTES
OF THE
FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
NEW RIVER
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HELD WITH
SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH,
FAYETTE COUNTY, ALA.,
ON OCTOBER 9TH, 10TH AND 11TH, 1884.



TUSKALOOSA, ALA :
GAZETTE BOOK AND JOB PRINT.
1884.

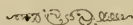
✧ OFFICERS: ✧



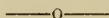
REV. J. B. FERGUSON, Moderator,
BUCKSNORT, ALA.

J. H. McGUIRE, Clerk and Treasurer,
FAYETTE C. H., ALA.

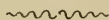
JNO. W. FALLS, Corresponding Secretary,
NORTH RIVER, TUSKALOOSA CO., ALA.



✧ MINISTERS: ✧



J. E. COX, Fayette C. H., Ala.
B. J. MAYFIELD, Binion Creek, Ala.
J. S. SHIRLEY, Fayette C. H., Ala.
W. S. JONES, Fayette C. H., Ala.
D. W. ANDREWS, Fayette C. H., Ala.
JONATHAN TAYLOR, Ur, Ala.
E. T. AKINS, Texas, Ala.
J. N. DICKENSON, Palo, Ala.
G. W. GRAYLEE, Newtonville, Ala.
J. M. CHISM, Palmetto, Ala.
N. J. DYAR, Ur, Ala.
J. B. FERGUSON, Bucksnort, Ala.
W. G. BAKER, Bucksnort, Ala.
E. HOCUTT, Pilgrim, Ala.
E. HOWELL, Kenedy's Station, Ala.
JOSEPH BALDWIN, Caudle, Ala.



The next session of the Association will be held with Union Baptist Church, Fayette county, Ala., twelve miles north-east of Fayette C. H., commencing on Thursday before the second Lord's day in October, 1885.

CONSTITUTION.

1. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different churches in our Union, who, on producing their letters, shall be entitled to seats.

2. The members thus chosen and convened shall be known as the NEW RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, which shall have the privilege to enact and carry out missionary purposes in all their bearings; yet so that churches and individual members are left free, and that giving or withholding shall not be a bar to fellowship.

3. To give churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulty; and if the Union be broken between any of the sister churches, to inquire into the cause of the breach, and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty; but if the breach cannot be repaired, to withdraw from any church or churches which she may look upon as being unsound in principle or immoral in practice, until the same can be reclaimed.

4. The churches in our Union shall transmit to every annual session of the Association a written communication specifying the names of their delegates, their number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, restored, dismissed, excommunicated and deceased, since the last session, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

5. Every church in our Union shall be entitled to representation in the following manner: Each church shall be entitled to send three delegates and no more. Any church failing to represent herself as above prescribed, shall state her reasons at the next session.

6. Churches may be admitted into this Union, who petition by letter and delegates; and upon examination, if found orthodox and orderly, shall be received by the Association, which shall be manifested by the Moderator giving the right hand of fellowship.

7. The Association thus formed, shall choose by ballot, a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year.

8. Every query sent up to the Association by any church in the Union shall be read and put to a vote by the Moderator whether it shall be debated; and if there be a majority for it, it shall be taken up and investigated; but if not, it shall be withdrawn, provided always that those be first considered which effect the union of the churches.

9. Voting shall be confined exclusively to the body in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

10. The Association shall not adjourn any session until she shall have finished all business on hand, except in extraordinary cases.

11. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if necessary, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk, before the session rises.

12. The Association shall, in all cases, be governed by a majority of the members present.

13. Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any session of the Association, when a majority of its members present shall deem it necessary.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

1st. We believe there is one only living and true God; and there are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and that these three are one.

2d. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, and the only true rule of faith and practice.

3d. We believe in the doctrine of human depravity, that it disables man from keeping the law of life; and that man's recovery and final salvation depends entirely upon the provision which Christ has made, and offered, upon the condition of faith.

4th. We believe in the doctrine of election, through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the Truth.

5th. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the merit of Jesus Christ.

6th. We believe that Saints shall persevere in grace, and not one of them finally fall away.

7th. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

AS FOR GOSPEL ORDER: 1st. We believe that the visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, who have gained christian fellowship with each other, and have given themselves up to the Lord and one another, and have agreed to keep up a Godly discipline according to the rules of the Gospel.

2d. We believe that Jesus Christ is the great head of the church, and only law-giver, and that the government is with the body, and is the privilege of each individual, and that the discipline of the church is intended for the reclaiming of the christians who may be disorderly either in principle or practice, and must be faithfully kept up for God's glory and the peace and unity of the churches.

3d. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and conscientiously do believe the true mode of baptism is immersion.

4th. We believe that none have a right to administer the ordinances but ministers of the Gospel, regularly ordained to that office.

5th. We believe that none but those regularly baptized have a right to participate in the Lord's Supper.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
2. To expedite business, committees may be appointed, at the discretion of the Association.
3. The Moderator shall be deemed judge of order and shall have a right to call to order at any time; and any brother not satisfied with his decision on any point of order may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.
4. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except withdrawn by him who made it.
5. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided or withdrawn before another shall be offered.
6. Every person who shall speak in debate shall rise from his seat

and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, or use words of personal reflection.

7. The Moderator, when addressed for leave to speak, shall signify the right of the applicant by naming him or otherwise.

8. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave of the Association.

9. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

10. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission from the Moderator.

11. The Moderator shall give the casting vote, and shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided he appoint another in his seat during the time.

12. The appellation of Brother shall be used in our address, one to another.

13. The names of delegates shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

14. Any member violating the above rules may be reprov'd as the Association thinks proper, only on the day the offence shall have occurred.

MINUTES.

The Fourteenth Annual Session of the NEW RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION met, pursuant to adjournment of this body last year, with Shady Grove Baptist Church, Fayette county, Alabama, on this the 10th day of October, 1884, at 11 o'clock, A. M., Moderator Rev. J. B. Ferguson presiding, and Bro. Zack. Savage acting as Clerk.

INTRODUCTORY.

At the appointed hour for preaching the delegates assembled in the church house, and Elder A. M. King, who was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon, not being present, his alternate, Elder J. N. Dickenson, after singing and prayer, delivered an interesting discourse from the text, Heb. iv. 3: "For we which have believed do enter into rest;" and was followed by Elder L. B. Harbin in a few pointed and forcible observations upon the above text and upon our missionary operations, closing the services by prayer.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

After divine services and a recess for refreshments, furnished in great abundance on the ground, the delegates, messengers and ministers composing the Association re-assembled in the church house, and after devotional exercises at half-past one o'clock, the body was formally called to order by the Moderator.

LETTERS.

The letters from the churches of the Association were then called for and laid on the table; whereupon

DELEGATES

Bros. Jno. W. Falls and Dr. T. C. Moorton were appointed reading clerks, and read the letters, from which the Clerk enrolled the following named delegates, to-wit:

Shady Grove—J. B. Ferguson, T. A. Rice, J. C. Chappell.

Mt. Pleasant—J. A. South, L. B. Gladden, G. H. White.

- Shepherd—G. W. Gravlee, J. G. Gibson.
 Pilgrim's Rest—Frank Wilson, W. I. Yerby, C. R. Davis.
 Chappell Hill—J. F. Ashcraft, G. W. Ashcraft.
 Fayetteville—J. E. Cox, J. H. McGuire.
 Rocky Mount—D. W. Andrews, A. M. Smith.
 Concord—L. C. Shirley, J. J. Patterson, W. I. Doughty.
 Oak Ridge—J. Belk.
 Double Branches—W. H. Brown.
 Friendship, Tuskalooza Co.—E. Holloway, J. W. Spencer.
 Meadow Branch—N. L. Trull.
 Arbor Springs—J. R. Barnett, J. W. Falls, S. M. Renfroe.
 Pleasant Hill—E. B. Newton, M. E. Chambliss.
 Mt. Lebanon—W. F. Baker, J. F. Willis, J. W. Graham.
 Oak Grove—C. M. Weeks, R. A. Berryhill.
 Hopewell—J. E. Mills, T. J. Tucker.
 Harmony Grove—J. N. Dickenson, J. Northeutt, J. M. Spann.
 Mt. Joy—W. F. Kirkland.
 Mt. Olive—T. C. Moorton, M. B. Hassell.
 Union, Fayette Co.—J. S. Hollingsworth, J. J. Ford, C. J. Nichols.
 Union, Marion Co.—Isaac Estell, S. Bobo.
 Mt. Pisgah—W. G. Baker, F. M. Lowrey, G. W. Deavors.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION—ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

On motion, the election of officers for the ensuing year, by ballot, was then had, which resulted in the choice of Rev. J. B. Ferguson as Moderator and J. H. McGuire as Clerk. The Moderator appointed Jno. W. Falls Corresponding Secretary.

PETITIONARY LETTERS.

The Moderator then extended an invitation to visiting churches through their letters and delegates to unite with our body, if any choose to do so, whereupon Friendship Church, from the North River Association, presented her letter through the following delegates, viz: R. F. White, W. J. Stanley and R. R. Hubbert. Siloam Church also presented a letter through her delegates, viz: Eld. J. Taylor, R. W. McGaha and J. Owens, and on motion said churches were duly admitted and welcomed into this Association.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

The Moderator then appointed the following committees, viz :

On Preaching—J. W. Falls, J. M. Spann, Frank Wilson, J. C. Chappell.

On Documents—D. W. Andrews, J. R. Barnett, M. Hassell.

On Circular Let'r—Elds. J. E. Cox and J. Taylor, and F. Wilson.

On Nominations—W. F. Baker, L. C. Shirley, C. M. Weeks.

On Finance—Isaac Estell, S. Renfroe, J. S. Hollingsworth.

On Education—J. H. McGuire, Jno. Graham, W. F. Kirkland.

On Temperance—N. L. Trull, W. G. Baker, T. A. Rice.

On Arrangements—W. I. Yerby, F. Wilson, J. Northcutt.

On Sabbath Schools—F. M. Hendon, W. F. Baker, J. South.

[Bro. Hendon, not being a delegate, by special request was appointed chairman of this committee.]

On motion, it was ordered that all standing committees hereafter be appointed by the Committee on Nominations instead of by the Moderator, as heretofore.

CORRESPONDENCE.—Received correspondence as follows, viz :

From North River Association—Elds. L. B. Harbin and J. W. Rogers, and Bros. B. M. Kimbrell and J. F. McDuff, with letter and minutes.

From Yellow Creek Association—Bro. John Stewart.

From Tuskaloosa Association—Bro. J. Cannon.

Returned correspondence as follows, viz :

To North River Association—Elds. J. E. Cox, D. W. Andrews, J. B. Ferguson, J. N. Dickenson, and Bros. J. H. McGuire and J. C. Chappell.

To Yellow Creek—Elds. J. E. Cox, D. W. Andrews and J. Taylor, and Bros. N. L. Trull and W. F. Baker.

To Tuskaloosa Association—Elders J. E. Cox and J. R. Barnett, and Brothers S. Renfroe, L. C. Shirley and J. S. Hollingsworth.

Moderator announced preaching to-night at the church by Elders J. W. Rogers and J. S. Shirley, and to-morrow at 11 o'clock by Elders L. B. Harbin and J. Taylor.

On motion, after prayer by J. W. Rogers, adjourned to 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

SECOND DAY'S SESSION

FRIDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 10, 1884.

After devotional exercises the Association was called to order by the Moderator and visiting ministers invited to seats with us.

STATE CONVENTION.

On motion the following delegates were appointed to the next session of the Alabama State Convention at Tuskegee, Ala., on Friday before the 3rd Sabbath in July, 1885, viz: J. H. McGuire, J. E. Cox, N. L. Trull, L. C. Shirley, Jno. Graham, J. S. Hollingsworth, G. W. Gravlee.

Reports of Committees received and adopted as follows:

ON ARRANGEMENTS.

We, your committee on Arrangements, beg leave to submit the following report:

- 1st. Read Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum.
- 2d. Call for correspondence.
- 3rd. Return correspondence.
- 4th. Call for Report of Committee on Documents.
- 5th. Call for Report of Committee on Circular Letter.
- 6th. Call for Report on District Meetings.
- 7th. Call for Report of Committee on Nominations.
- 8th. Call for Report of Committee on Finance.
- 9th. Call for Report of Committee on Temperance.
- 10th. Call for Report of Executive Board.
- 11th. Call for Report of Committee on Sabbath Schools.
- 12th. Call for Report of Treasurer.
- 13th. Appointment of Treasurer for ensuing year.
- 14th. Call for Report of Committee on Education.
- 15th. Call for reading of Corresponding Letters.
- 16th. Call for Report of Committee on Superannuated Ministers.
- 17th. Call for Report of Committee on Ministerial Education.
- 18th. Call for Report of Committee on Query.
- 19th. Call for miscellaneous business.

Respectfully submitted,
W. I. YERBY, Chairman.

PREACHING.

On motion, the regular order of business was suspended, and Elder L. B. Harbin was requested to preach at 11 o'clock

on the subject of Missions, to be followed by Elder J. Taylor.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

We, your Committee on Documents, beg leave to report as follows, viz :

* After examining all documents placed in our hands, we find among the letters of churches, two petitions for dismission from our body, to-wit : One from Double Branches and one from Friendship, together with the query from Harmony Grove upon discipline.

We recommend that this body grant the request of the two churches, Double Branches and Friendship, by giving them letters of dismission ; and also to give the counsel to the church at Harmony Grove on the question of Discipline.

Respectfully submitted,

D. W. ANDREWS, Chairman.

The above report, on motion, was referred to a committee of three, viz : Elders J. E. Cox and W. F. Baker and W. J. Stanley, to draft and report to this body an answer to the query on Discipline above referred to, as an amendment to the foregoing Report on Documents, and the report adopted in other respects.

REPORT ON CIRCULAR LETTER.

We, your Committee on Circular Letter, beg leave to report that we have carefully examined the Letter, and would recommend its reading, adoption and publication, after necessary corrections. Respectfully submitted,

J. E. COX, Chairman.

[See "Appendix A" for Letter in full, as corrected.]

REPORTS OF DISTRICT MEETINGS.

FIRST DISTRICT.

The next District Meeting to be held with Chapel Hill church, $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Newtonville, on the Newtonville road, on Friday before the third Sabbath in September, 1885, Elder James E. Cox to preach the Introductory Sermon ; Elder E. Howell, alternate. Subject for discussion on Saturday : "What is meant by Justification ?" Opened by Elder J. B. Ferguson and J. S. White. On Saturday P. M. : "Does Christ intercede for saints and sinners alike ?" Opened by S. M. Waldroop and J. R. Barnett.

J. D. THOMAS,
Clerk.

J. B. FERGUSON,
Moderator.

2ND DISTRICT, FAYETTE CO., ALA., August, 1884.

The Second District met with Oak Grove church, Fayette county, Ala., on Friday before the second Sabbath in August, 1884, and located the next session of the Second District to meet with Mount Olive church, Fayette county, on Friday before the fourth Sabbath in August, 1885, Elder W. G. Baker to preach the Introductory Sermon and Elders J. S. Shirley and J. N. Dickenson to preach at 11 o'clock on Sabbath; W. L. Jones, alternate.

Questions for discussion—first: "Does the Bible teach that the habitation of the saints will be here on earth or elsewhere?" Opened by J. N. Dickenson.

Second Question: What is meant in Matt. xvi. 19: "I will give unto thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven?"

We also petition the next session of the Association to be held with Union church, Fayette county, Ala., 12 miles north-east of Fayette C. H.

W. B. SHIRLEY,
Church Clerk.

J. S. SHIRLEY,
Moderator.

On motion, adjourned for preaching at 11 o'clock.

At the appointed hour divine services began by singing the hymn:

"What means this eager, anxious throng,
That moves with busy haste along," &c.,

after which and prayer, the Missionary Sermon, pursuant to appointment, was preached by Elder L. B. Harbin from John xvii. 18: "As thou hast sent me into the world even so have I also sent them into the world." After which Elder J. Taylor closed the services by a few appropriate remarks and singing the hymn "On Greenland's Icy Mountains," &c., during which a missionary collection was taken up amounting to \$14.20, and then dismissed for dinner, which was furnished in great abundance on the grounds.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

at half-past one o'clock, after devotional exercises, the Moderator called the body to order and called for

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS,

which was read and adopted, to-wit:

Your Committee on Nominations beg leave to report:

1. That W. G. Baker deliver the Introductory Sermon at the next session of this Association; J. Taylor, alternate.

2. Elder J. E. Cox to preach the sermon at 11 o'clock, second day; J. S. Shirley, alternate.

3. J. H. McGuire to write the Circular Letter.

4. Committee on Executive Board, to-wit: F. M. Hendon, W. B. Shirley, J. A. South, W. F. Kirkland, W. B. Melton.

Respectfully submitted,

W. F. BAKER, Chairman.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your Committee on Temperance, ask to report that so far as our information extends, intemperance is on the decrease among the membership of our churches. However, it is our painful duty to say, there does exist among our membership a propensity for strong drink which is too frequently indulged, and always when indulged is detrimental to the Master's cause. We would therefore urge upon our churches a strict course of discipline, and that we see to it that our churches shall not be the homes of intemperance. Respectfully submitted,

N. L. TRULL, Chairman.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

We, your Committee on Finance, submit the following report :

For Minutes.....	\$29 10
For Associational purposes.....	16 55
For Bro. Andrews	2 00
For Bro. King.....	4 75
For Bro. Cox.....	3 75
For Zack. Savage for Minutes.....	75

Total.....\$56 90

I. ESTELL, Chairman.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received from Finance Committee for Minutes.....	\$28 20
Received from Finance Committee Associational fund	16 45

Total.....\$44 65

CR.

By amount paid J. L. West & Co. for Minutes.....	\$26 00
By amount paid for postage.	20
By amount paid Elder J. E. Cox, Missionary.....	18 45

Total\$44 65

Respectfully submitted,

ZACK SAVAGE, Treas.

The Moderator then appointed J. H. McGuire Treasurer for ensuing year.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD.

We, the Executive Board, in the absence of our chairman, are unable to make a satisfactory report, and would submit the report of our Missionary as our report. We would recommend that this body devote some space in our Minutes to the memory of our dear departed sister Sarah Cox.

Respectfully,

W. F. KIRKLAND.

ZACK. SAVAGE.

W. B. MELTON.

The following is the report of Missionary, above referred to, as part of report of Executive Board :

To the Executive Committee of the New River Association :

DEAR BRETHREN :—According to appointment I commenced work as Missionary immediately after the last session of this body and continued until the illness of my dear wife demanded my personal attention. I quit the work until God called that model christian woman (the wife of my youth) from Missionary labor to refreshment and rest in Heaven. So soon as I could make arrangements for my motherless children to have company, I began work again, the result of which is as follows :

Days at work, 110 ; sermons preached, 106 ; addresses, 18 ; churches organized, 2 ; Sunday schools organized, 3 ; deacons ordained, 6. Dedicated one church house ; baptized 28 ; number approved for baptism, 6 ; witnessed about 40 conversions ; received for services up to this time, October 18th, \$91. The churches did not send the amounts pledged, as the Board anticipated, hence I have had very little encouragement financially. But in the communities where meetings were held there has been quite a display of God's pleasure and power to save sinners and refresh his people. I love the work—the people—the churches where I have labored. I have been warmly received. If they had been able my dear children would have been amply supported ; but I was advised to go where my work was most needed, which, of course, carried me among people who were able to do very little in way of support. The harvest is white. The work ought to be done. Some work, thank God, has been done. To God be all the glory.

J. E. COX, Missionary.

It was then ordered, upon motion, that the amount of funds this day raised for missionary purposes, to-wit : \$14.20 be

turned over to the Chairman of the Executive Board for distribution as follows, viz: \$7.10 for missionary work within the bounds of our Association; \$7.10 together with the \$3.75 from Fayetteville church, for Mexican missions.

Upon further motion the Moderator then appointed a committee of two, viz: G. W. Gravlee and W. G. Baker, to draft and report suitable resolutions commemorative of the memory of Sister Cox.

Pending discussion of the Report of the Executive Board, upon motion and after prayer led by G. W. Gravlee, the Association adjourned to half-past 8 o'clock to-morrow morning.

THIRD DAY'S SESSION

SATURDAY MORNING, OCT. 11, 8:30 A. M.

After devotional exercises, conducted by the Moderator, the Association was duly called to order and discussion of our missionary operations resumed, and after elaborate debate, the report was adopted, as copied above.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools submit the following report:

We see no increase in the number of Sabbath Schools reported this session over last, and regret that so large a majority of our churches have no Sabbath Schools, or if any, have failed to report them. We would earnestly urge upon each church that is without a Sunday School the great importance of such an organization, and that they awake from their slumberings in regard to this important work.

The churches that report Sabbath Schools are Hopewell, Mt. Joy, Oak Grove, Mt. Lebanon, Union, Arbor Springs, Meadow Branch, Concord and Fayetteville.

We would recommend the use of the literature published by the "Kind Words" Publishing House at Macon, Ga., or by the American Baptist Publication Society at Philadelphia, Pa. This literature is so remarkably cheap that it is within the reach of all.

We would request every pastor to present this cause to each of their churches. Also that they request the clerks of the

churches to give a fuller and more complete report of the Sunday Schools in their letters to the Association. This is the Lord's work, in which every christian should be earnestly engaged, but we are forced to say that a large portion of our membership stand aloof from this noble work. Brethren, this ought not so to be, for in the Sunday Schools are sown the seeds of righteousness and truth in the young and tender hearts that will spring up and bring forth much fruit. Let us be loyal to this work, for it is a move in the right direction; and in due season, if we faint not, we shall reap our reward.

Respectfully submitted,

F. M. HENDON, Chairman.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Your Committee on Education beg leave to report as follows :

Since our last session we are pleased to note a marked and permanent advance in this glorious cause. While it is true that our common country schools are yet greatly neglected, and hence hundreds of our children are fast growing into manhood and womanhood without the advantages of even the elements of an education, yet many of our young men and young ladies are becoming interested and deeply concerned upon this subject, and are now seeking to improve their education in the various high schools and colleges surrounding our territory.

Until recently, however, (and with deep regret do we note it,) there has been no school of high order within the bounds of this entire Association. Hence, we trust it is with pardonable pride that your Committee avail themselves of this opportunity to direct the attention of this body to the Fayette County Male and Female Institute, recently incorporated and established at Fayette C. H. as an institution of learning, that promises great and lasting advantages to the youth of our land. The building itself, we learn, is a perfect model of beauty and convenience, and reflects great credit upon its founders. This school opens its first session on next Monday with a full corps of able and experienced teachers; is entirely undenominational, and offers free tuition to all candidates for the ministry of any denomination.

We therefore recommend, dear brethren, our young brother Dickenson to your favorable consideration as a young minister of much promise, who is anxious, we learn, to avail himself of this bonus, but whose limited means will not even suffice to bear his other necessary expenses while attending school. We helped him last session to a small amount which he has used to great advantage. Let us then not fail to go on with this

well begun work and aid the young brother in his efforts to become useful and instructive.

Respectfully submitted,
J. H. McGUIRE, Chairman.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Called for Letter of correspondence which was read and adopted, as to-wit :

OCTOBER 10TH, 1884.

The New River Baptist Association to her sister Associations, with whom she is in correspondence, sendeth christian salutation :

Our present session is in peaceable progress, and we hope much good for the Master's cause may result from our coming together. The work for the Master in our bounds seems in a more prosperous condition than for some time past.

We gladly welcome your messengers who are with us and return correspondents as shown in our Minutes. We hope at our next session to meet many of your ministers and brethren.

May the Savior rule in all our hearts, and the Holy Spirit direct us, that we may be faithful laborers in the vineyard of our Lord, is our prayer.

JNO. W. FALLS, Cor. Sec'y.

QUERY ON DISCIPLINE.

Called for report of special Committee on Query from Harmony Grove church, which was read and adopted, as to-wit :

We, your committee, appointed to draft an answer to a query from Harmony Grove church relative to public offences, viz : "Does the church have the scriptural right to hear an acknowledgment from a member and forgive the same, who is guilty of a public offence, such as cursing, drunkenness, &c ?" would recommend this body to answer no ; emphatically no.

J. E. COX, Chairman.

On motion, after prayer by G. W. Gravlee, the Association adjourned for dinner to 1 :30 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At the appointed hour the Association convened, and after devotional services, was called to order and proceeded to business as follows, viz :

REPORT ON AGED AND INFIRM MINISTERS.

We, your Committee on Superannuated Ministers report that we have had no funds on hand, nor has there been any appli-

cation for help. We would recommend that this Association raise something for Father Andrews, who has worn out his life in the service of the churches, and is doing what he can for the Master, notwithstanding his feebleness. We should also help Bro. King, our blind preacher, &c.

E. B. NEWTON.

NOTE.—The Chairman of this Committee being absent the report was submitted by one of the members, Bro. Newton, who stated he was not able to report fully the work of the Committee.

On motion, the regular order of business was suspended and a collection taken up, for aged and infirm ministers, of \$8.35 in cash, and \$6.25 by subscription, all of which was turned over to Bro. E. B. Newton for distribution as the committee shall direct.

The Moderator then appointed Bros. T. J. Tate, Wm. Shirley and John Reeves as a standing Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers, to serve during the next year.

REPORT ON MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.

We, your Committee on Ministerial Education, report that Bro. J. N. Dickenson has been going to school to Bro. G. W. Young. His board and tuition amounts to \$49.65, all of which has been paid.

We recommend Bro. Dickenson and any other promising gift, to the favorable consideration of this body in this direction. There is still money in the treasury of your Committee.

E. B. NEWTON, Chairman.

After discussing the above report a collection, by subscription, was taken up for the education of Bro. J. N. Dickenson, amounting to \$32.50, which was turned over to the Committee on Ministerial Education.

The Moderator then appointed as a standing committee on Ministerial Education, Bros. E. B. Newton, J. H. McGuire and J. M. Spann, to act during the next associational year.

The Moderator then called for the report of the special committee appointed to draft suitable resolutions, &c., upon the death of Sister Cox, which was read and adopted, and upon motion, was ordered to be printed upon the Minutes in mourning as follows, to-wit :

:-IN MEMORIAM:-

SISTER SARAH COX,

The subject of this notice, was the consort of our dear brother, Rev. J. E. Cox, and was the only daughter of Gen. John Manasco. She was married to Bro. Cox in 1861, and professed faith in Christ in either 1859 or 1860, and was received into Pleasant Grove church, Walker county, Ala., by profession and baptism in the year 1863.

Sister Cox, from the time of her becoming a member of the church, truly adorned her profession by an orderly walk and Godly conversation, exhibiting in her whole life daily the true spirit of the Lord, in whom she trusted with implicit confidence. And while she suffered much bodily affliction for many years in the last part of her pilgrimage on earth, she never wavered in her faith and confidence in her Savior; and though poor in this world's goods, and her devoted husband very poorly compensated, she would urge him to go, telling him the work must be done and God would take care of her and the children. Therefore, while she was a Baptist, she was one that taught by precept and example the importance of missionary work, sacrificing with cheerful resignation her means, time and that pleasure of the association, assistance and comfort of the companion of her life—rejoicing with him when God prospered him in his life-work, but mourning over the coldness and barrenness of Zion. Her whole life was one of humble, devoted, self-sacrificing for the cause of Christ.

Therefore, in her death, the church has lost one of its bright lights; the world, the devoted and earnest prayers of one of its best women; the children, the loving care of one of the best of mothers; and Bro. Cox, a wife whose place can never be filled. To the father and children, the bereft, we offer our sympathy and condolence; and to God our prayers for his grace to be given them to sustain and comfort them in this the greatest bereavement known to mortal man in this life. But our sister's work is done, and she is now at rest in the confidence of her dear Savior, whom she loved so well.

G. W. GRAYLEE, Chairman.

EXECUTIVE BOARD, &c.

On motion, Bro. W. B. Melton, a member of the Executive Board, was granted permission to appeal to the Association for help to carry on missionary operations in our bounds, whereupon the regular order of business was suspended.

A collection was called for and taken up for the use of said Board amounting to \$26.20. On motion, the Moderator appointed the clerks of the various churches of this body collecting agents for the Executive Board, who are earnestly requested by this body to raise funds in their churches for the use of the Executive Board, and to report to the chairman.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

The following resolutions were then offered and adopted, viz :

ON PROHIBITION.

1st. Be it resolved by the New River Baptist Association in annual session convened, at Shady Grove church, Fayette county, Ala., that it is the unanimous request of this body that the next General Assembly of Alabama pass a law forever prohibiting the manufacture, sale or giving away in any quantities whatever, of vinous, spirituous or malt liquors in said county of Fayette, and to this end we do hereby earnestly request our Representative, the Hon. R. W. Wood, to use his utmost endeavor to procure the passage of such law at the earliest possible period.

E. B. NEWTON.

MINUTES.

2d. RESOLVED, That our Clerk have 700 copies of the Minutes printed; that he receive \$10 for his services, and that he return the remainder of the funds to the chairman of the Executive Board for missionary operations. Resolved further, that the Constitution, Articles of Faith, and Rules of Decorum be printed in the Minutes.

G. W. GRAYLEE.

THANKS.

3rd. RESOLVED, That the thanks of this Association are hereby tendered to Shady Grove church and community for their bounteous hospitality and kindness to us during this session.

G. W. GRAYLEE.

REV. D. W. ANDREWS' BOOK.

J. H. McGuire then called the attention of the Association to the contents, merits, &c., of a book now in preparation for

the press by Rev. D. W. Andrews, embracing, as he explained, a brief history of the North River Baptist Association, together with its various branches, the New River, Yellow Creek, Clear Creek, &c., and also a brief sketch of the author's ministerial life and great trials and difficulties in laying the foundation of this great Baptist brotherhood, after which a subscription for said book was taken up at 40 cents per copy, which resulted in raising \$4.30 in cash and many subscribers, which were turned over to Bro. Andrews.*

On motion, the Minutes were then read, corrected, adopted and signed; after which the delegates, ministers and messengers came together in the alter, while singing the hymn "How Firm a Foundation," &c., and extended the parting hand of christian love and fellowship; and after prayer, led by the Moderator, the Association adjourned to meet again on Thursday before the 2nd Lord's day in October, 1885, with Union church, twelve miles north-east of Fayette C. H., in Fayette county, Alabama.

J. H. McGUIRE,
Clerk.

J. B. FERGUSON,
Moderator.

*NOTE.—The compiler of these Minutes has had occasion to examine Bro. Andrews' book, since the close of our session, as well also as some testimonials of its truthfulness of detail, and it affords him great pleasure to avail himself of this opportunity to recommend the work, not only as a faithful expose of the early history of the Baptists of this country, but also as something novel and unique in the way of Baptist literature. There are some precious morsels scattered all along, and ever and anon you stumble on something rare. No intelligent Baptist, who knows what it is and can obtain a copy, will think of doing without it.

APPENDIX A.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

BELoved BRETHREN :—As it is a custom to address you annually, we have concluded to drop you a few thoughts on the subject of “GOSPEL DISCIPLINE.” The enemy of Truth seems to be let loose upon us, and is causing great distress to the faithful child of God.

We find that much of the existing difficulties have arisen, in the first place, for the want of the faithful exercise of discipline. This subject, duly considered, would occupy more time and space than could be expected in a Circular Letter.

We propose in this communication to say something of the nature and extent of church government; the obligations of believers to respect the government of the church; the duty of believers to themselves and their relative duties as church members; and in the first place as to the nature and extent of church government. All governments are limited within the bounds of a constitution, and derive all their force therefrom. The powers exercised by the church are all derived, and are only entitled to respect, so far as they are recognized by the word of God. The constitution of the Christian Church may be comprehended in the brief word LOVE, and whatsoever may be done by a church or individual members, free from its influence or control cannot be said to be properly or legally done; neither need we expect it to be ratified by the Great Head of the Church. The Savior is the legislator of the Church, and His word should be our rule of faith and practice. He has established His kingdom in the world and given laws for its government, committed the charge of the affairs of this kingdom to His people, and made necessary to the faithful administration of those laws a disposition of heart suited to their character; so whatever is done out of the spirit of the law is done out of the spirit of Christ, and not binding. The

mind of Christ should be the mind of His people. And when this is so, "Whatsoever is bound on earth is bound in heaven; and whatsoever is loosed on earth is loosed in heaven."—Matt. xviii., 18. It is the duty of every believer to live in connection with the visible body of Christ, in the enjoyment of the ordinances of His house; and such have a right to expect to find in the church of Christ a people formed after His own pattern, and that pattern is found alone in the revelation of His will. Hence, to have any other book of discipline or faith, is what none should expect, and what the churches have no right to enforce; otherwise the Scriptures become insufficient as a rule of faith and practice. It is true that men differ in their interpretations of Scripture, and that union of sentiment is necessary and desirable. In such cases a majority of the male members must decide, and if perfect harmony cannot be had it is best for the minority to suspend their judgment (at least for a time) and submit. This seems to be the instruction of Paul to the churches.—Ephesians v., 21. The proper disposition (which is love) together with the extent in which that disposition should be exercised, being wholly derived, we should use it, as churches, with the greatest moderation and candor. There is no authority on earth superior to the church, in matters of faith and practice, consequently each church is an independent body. All other ecclesiastical bodies derive their powers from the church, and as such are subordinate, while the church derives all its authority from Jesus Christ and is alone subject to his direction. Final decision, in matters of discipline, belong alone to the church, not to individuals, and as such its authority and councils must be respected, otherwise mutual restraints and the foundation of all good government is lost. The church should be made up of believers baptized upon a creditable profession of their faith in Christ. Individuals are its component parts, with a diversity of gifts, talents and influences. If, then, it is the duty of one believer to belong to the church, to honor and respect its government, it is the duty of every one, and when joined to the church to respect it as an institution of our Lord, and not as the institution of men. An unruly spirit in the church is what the devil was in heaven, who had to be turned out.—Rev. xii., 7 to 9. Believers should constantly hold in high estimation the house of God, even as the Prodigal did his father's house. It is there alone the ordinances can be observed and a mutual watch kept up for the preservation against insinuation and error. It is there alone the particular as also the general interest of Zion must be cultivated and a pure and unadulterated ministry had.

The church is the salt of the earth—the light of the world. It is then a most elevated privilege to be one of such a royal family, and should produce in our deportment towards each other a brotherly love, not rendering evil for evil, but contrawise, blessing—knowing that we are thereunto called. If we would exercise a restraining influence we must be steadfast, immovable—always abounding in the work of the Lord. Thus we will be fitted for the companionship of saints, for the enjoyment of religion in its sublime character, and for the recovery of an erring brother; which brings us to consider the relative duties of believers as church members. When a brother has become offended at the conduct of another towards himself, he should take care to address him first upon the subject; for by conversing with different persons he will become a source of discord, or idle, mischievous tale-bearer, so offensive to God and destructive to human happiness. In the 18th chapter of Matthew the express rule is laid down for the offended party to be governed by, and he should be careful that this rule should be strictly adhered to. But many have concluded that it is alone the duty of an aggrieved brother to seek reconciliation. This is a great mistake; and to see him that would thus talk is to see him that would grind the feelings of his brethren.

This we conceive is the design of christian discipline, to correct growing evils; to restore the weak and sickly christians to health; to recover the wandering from their errors, and to unite in strong bonds the family of Christ; the small and the great, the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, that they might be as one man in Christ Jesus—all governed by the same rules, actuated by the same spirit. The design of all our efforts should be to save our brother. When we see one of our members about to go into error, a word fitly and timely spoken would often save them from many sorrows. The private feelings of our brethren is what we should rather mourn and pray over then to publish them abroad; but there are cases of notorious and complicated wickedness over which the church must exercise an especial control. In no case can the offense be made anything but an offense, and the object is to care and restore the offender. Public offences must be publicly rebuked. But many screen themselves from any effort to recover an offender, because the offense is of a public character. This is not as a brother should do; neither is it lovely. Rather let us visit such an one, admonish him to confess his faults, and make public restitution for a public wrong. These things are enjoined on church members in Gal. vi., 1, 2; Ephesians v., 11; Heb. xii., 14, 15; James v., 10 to 20.

In case all these measures fail to reclaim, the church in her official or collective capacity must act, and call for the disorderly persons and deal with them agreeable to the rule laid down in Matt. xviii., 24 to 31. But in case of gross immorality the church may be justifiable in excluding, without the presence or even a hearing allowed the offender, as in 1st Cor. 5th chapter. A due allowance should be made to a brother whose course of conduct in the main has been uniform and consistent, but who on account of some sudden temptation has been led astray, we should judge of the circumstances under which the offences were committed, and deal accordingly. A difference is required of us in the word of God in the exercise of discipline. With some more gentle measures are required, who are more the objects of sympathy than censure. Of some have compassion, making a difference; others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh: Jude 22d and 23rd verses, Gal. vi., 1.

The faith of the people is left to their own consciences, while their practices are restrained. Lying, drunkenness, profane swearing, &c., are punishable by the laws of the land and may be justly esteemed public offences. In every case of disorder, dear brethren, we recommend private admonitions and dealings, while at the same time we conclude that all such offenders should be publicly noticed and publicly rebuked.

In matters of faith the church collectively must be the judge. A departure from the leading doctrines of the gospel commands your attention. When a brother is known to be straying from the truth, early measures should be adopted for his recovery. Private judgment should be respected, but in no case can it be allowed to dictate for the whole body of the church. In such cases private labors, affectionately bestowed, are often most salutary, and should never be neglected, and most especially by the deacons of the church, when such an erring brother is brought to their notice; but should such efforts fail, the case must be publicly noticed by the church, according to the scriptural rules. A man that is heretic, after the first and second admonition, reject.—Titus iii., 10 and 11.

Finally, dear brethren, we would exhort you in conclusion, that you endeavor to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

W. B. MELTON.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	NAMES OF PASTORS.	POST OFFICES OF PASTORS.	NAMES OF CLERKS.	POST OFFICES OF CLERKS.	NAMES OF SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS.	POST OFFICES OF SUND. SCHOOL SUPT'S.	Baptized.	Restored by letter	Excluded.	Dismissed by letter	Dead.	Total Membership	Sabbath of Meeting	No. S. S. Scholars.	No. S. S. Teachers.	Average Sund. School attendance..	Amount paid for Pas- tors' salary.....	Am't paid for Minutes	Am't paid for Associa- tional purposes.....	Am't paid for Sunday School purposes.....	Am't paid Home Mis- sions.....	Am't paid for Foreign Missions.....	Amount paid for State Missions.....	Am't for Ministerial Education.....	Aged and Infirm Min- isters.....	Total Amount.
1. Arbor Springs.....	A. M. King.....	Samantha.....	John W. Falls.....	Samantha.....	A. M. King.....	Samantha.....	3	6			1	26	3rd					\$1 00	\$ 25						\$ 1 25	
2. Chapel Hill.....	J. M. Chisholm.....	Cave Spring.....	G. W. Ashcraft.....	Cave Spring.....			5	3	3	1		56	3rd					1 50	50						2 00	
3. Concord.....	J. M. Chisholm.....	Palmetto.....	W. B. Melton.....	Ridge.....	J. S. White.....	Ridge.....	35	8	7	4	2	169	4th					2 00	1 00						3 00	
4. Double Branches.....											3	18														
5. Fayetteville.....	J. E. Cox.....	Fayette C. H.....	H. M. Bell.....	Fayette C. H.....	J. H. McGuire.....	Fayette C. H.....	4	4	1	1	2	43	1 & 3	62	5	35	\$ 2 15	1 50	2 50	\$25 00		\$3 75	\$3 75	\$26 50	\$7 50	285 50
6. Friendship, Tuskaloosa Co.....	B. J. Mayfield.....	Binion Creek.....	J. P. Watson.....				2		1	1		53						1 50							1 50	
7. Friendship, Fayette Co.....	J. S. Shirley.....	Fayette C. H.....	W. D. McCullors.....	Ballard.....				18		14	2	32	1					1 00	50						1 50	
8. Hopewell.....	E. T. Akins.....	Texas.....	G. S. Tucker.....	Texas.....	W. T. Webb.....	Texas.....		1		1		46						1 50							1 50	
9. Harmony Grove.....	J. N. Dickenson.....	Palo.....	J. T. Span.....	Palo.....			2	3	2	8	1	101	1				20 00	2 50				20 00		22 50		
10. Mount Pleasant.....	G. W. Gravlee.....	Newtonville.....	T. E. Goodwin.....	Fayette C. H.....			6	7	4	5	2	67	3					1 50	1 00						2 50	
11. Meadow Branch.....	J. M. Chisholm.....	Palmetto.....	W. J. Trull.....	Anro.....	S. S., but no name.....		3	6		1		41	2				45 00	1 00	1 00					2 00	47 00	
12. Mount Lebanon.....	G. W. Gravlee.....	Newtonville.....	J. W. Graham.....	Fayette C. H.....	Miles Bobo.....	Fayette C. H.....	8	4		3	1	96	1			20	25 50	1 50			\$15 30			4 25	46 55	
13. Mount Joy.....	W. L. Jones.....	Fayette C. H.....	W. D. Killingsworth.....	Mt. Calm.....	W. D. Killingsworth.....	Mt. Calm.....		3		11		58	2			25		1 50							1 50	
14. Mount Olive.....	N. J. Dyar.....	Fayette C. H.....	William Lewis.....	Fayette C. H.....			2	3	2	8	1	82	1					1 50	1 00						2 50	
15. Mount Pisgah.....	J. B. Ferguson.....	Bucksport.....	W. G. Baker.....	Bucksport.....	W. L. Parks.....	Bucksport.....			1			27	4					75	75						1 50	
16. Oak Ridge.....	E. Hocutt.....	Pilgrim.....	James Freeman.....	Pilgrim.....				2	1	1		41	1					50	50						1 00	
17. Oak Grove.....	Jonathan Taylor.....	Ur.....	W. A. Weeks.....	Ur.....	W. B. Taylor.....	Ur.....	2	3	1			53				30	12 50	1 00							13 50	
18. Pilgrim's Rest.....	E. Howell.....	Pilgrim.....	C. R. Davis.....	Pilgrim.....					3	1	19	3	47	2				1 00	1 00						2 00	
19. Pleasant Hill.....	A. A. Smith.....	Eldridge.....	J. H. Newton.....	Fayette C. H.....			2	1	2			42	3					1 00	50						1 50	
20. Rocky Mount.....	D. W. Andrews.....	Fayette C. H.....	A. M. Smith.....	Fayette C. H.....			1	3	1	1	3	54					48 00	75	75						1 50	
21. Shady Grove.....	J. B. Ferguson.....	Bucksport.....	T. A. Rice.....	Garfield.....					2		4		2				30 00	1 25	50						31 75	
22. Shepherd.....	J. M. Chisholm.....	Palmetto.....	J. D. Thomas.....	Newtonville.....			3				2	46	1					1 00	1 00						2 00	
23. Siloam.....	Jonathan Taylor.....	Mt. Calm.....	R. H. Erwin.....	Mt. Calm.....			3	3				17	3					75	25						1 00	
24. Union, Fayette Co.....	W. G. Baker.....	Bucksport.....	J. S. Hollingsworth.....	New River.....						7		29	3					1 50							1 50	
25. Union, Marion Co.....	Joseph Bawldin.....	Candle.....	W. M. Weeks.....	Candle.....	S. Bobo.....	Candle.....	14	5		2	1	50				15	2 00	1 00			12 00		1 00		16 00	
Total.....							95	86	12	32	91	21	293		62	5	398 00	\$29 10	\$16 55	\$25 00	\$27 30	\$3 75	\$3 75	\$47 50	\$13 75	\$492 05

NOTE.—New River Association, Fourteenth Annual Session, J. B. Ferguson, Moderator; J. H. McGuire, Clerk; John W. Falls, Corresponding Secretary. Delegates present, 51; Churches, 25; Corresponding Associations, 3.



